

ACTION
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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01
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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 PM-05 HA-05 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4838
INFO DDO/ISA
CSAF WASHDC

UNCLASSIFIED

Argentina

BUENOS AIRES 2690

E.O. 12065: GDS (3/27/86) (CASTRO, RAUL) OR-M
TAGS: MILI SHUM PFOR AR
SUBJ: AWARDS TO ARGENTINE MILITARY

REF: 79 BUENOS AIRES 6454

1. ENTIRE TEXT

2. IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE SENT LAST AUGUST, I OUT-
LINED POLICY ESTABLISHED AT THIS POST FOR THE AWARD OF
US DECORATIONS TO ARGENTINE OFFICERS. BECAUSE OF THE
POSSIBILITY OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE USG ARISING FROM
AWARDS TO OFFICERS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN GROSS
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, I REQUESTED THAT HENCEFORTH
AWARDS FOR SERVICE IN THE US BE MADE
PRIOR TO THE OFFICERS DEPARTURE FROM THE US.

3. THREE CASES HAVE NOW ARISEN OF OFFICERS WHO DE-
PARTED THE US PRIOR TO REFTEL AND WHOSE AWARDS HAVE
BEEN RECENTLY FORWARDED FOR PRESENTATION. THEY ARE:
(A) LEGION OF MERIT TO MAJOR GENERAL HIPOLITO MARIANI,
AAF, AIR ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON FROM JANUARY 1978 -
FEBRUARY 1979.

(B) AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL TO LT. COL. BENITO
WIERNIA, AAF, INSTRUCTOR USAF ACADEMY FROM JUNE 1977 -
JULY 1979.

(C) AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL TO LT. COL. RAUL MUJICA,
AAF, INSTRUCTOR AT INTER AMERICAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY
FOR MARCH 1977 - MARCH 1979.

WE HAVE REVIEWED THE FILES OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THIS
MISSION AND THE RECORD OF ASSIGNMENTS OF THESE THREE
OFFICERS. WE CAN FIND NO INFORMATION TO SUGGEST THAT
THEY WERE INVOLVED IN OR APPROVED ACTIONS ABUSING
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WE ARE SATISFIED THAT AWARDS TO THEM
FOR SATISFACTORY SERVICE AT US SERVICE SCHOOLS OR AS
ATTACHES SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS REWARDING HUMAN
RIGHTS VIOLATORS.

4. SINCE THESE OFFICERS AWARDS WERE EARNED BUT NOT
PRESENTED BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLICY SET
FORTH IN REFTEL, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF EMBARRASSMENT
TO THE USG ARISING FROM THE AWARDS IS REMOTE, I RE-
QUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN THE PRESENTATION
OF THESE AWARDS. AN AWARD CEREMONY IS PLANNED FOR
17 APRIL 1980 DURING VISIT OF MAJOR GENERAL TANGUY.
USAFSO.
CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Gafeld, Director
Exemptions(s):
() Release () Excise () Deny
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

LOT 82D177

BOX 8114 (2/21)